

**Private Admonition -- Board Case No. 17, 1992. Date of Sanction: September 11, 1992.** A private admonition, with conditions, was authorized by the Preliminary Review Committee of the Board on Professional Responsibility (the "PRC") and was imposed upon the Respondent for a violation of **DLRPC 1.8(a)**, which states that a lawyer shall not enter into business relationships with clients except under certain conditions.

The Respondent had, over the course of several years, entered into several business transactions with a client. Litigation between the Respondent and the client over some of the transactions subsequently occurred, with the court ultimately deciding against the Respondent. The PRC agreed with the court's finding that the transactions had not been "fair and reasonable" to the client, and thus had violated **DLRPC 1.8(a)**.

The private admonition was conditioned upon (a) the Respondent's payment of the investigation costs of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (the "ODC"), (b) the Respondent's agreement that no business transactions shall be conducted between the Respondent and the Respondent's clients or former clients unless (i) such clients or former clients are represented by independent counsel, or (ii) such clients or former clients sign a written statement to the effect that they are fully aware of their right to independent counsel in the transaction and have voluntarily relinquished that right, and (c) the Respondent's agreement to submit to the ODC a letter listing all of the Respondent's court-ordered obligations to the complainant, financial or otherwise, along with the Respondent's plans for complying with each of such obligations. The Respondent had no prior disciplinary record.